quieſcunt interni muſculi. Hæc ad primam quæſtionem.

Ad alteram.

Sumatur animal quodcumque vivum aut mortuum, mergatur ſub aqua, et ſub aqua prudenter, ne pulmonem lædas, pertundatur pleura. Si aer elaſticus eſt inter pleuram et pulmonem, bullæ adſcendent per aquam. Si nullæ adſcendunt, nullus adeſt aer. Id me rectius nôſtis, et ex principiis patet.

Sed repetita ſatis experimenta feci. Bullæ nunquam adparuerunt in ullo experimento, et videor mihi nihil præcipitis corollarii inde deducere, ſi inde concluſero, nullum adeo elaſticum aerem inter pleuram et pulmonem eſſe.

D. Gottingæ, *d.* 6. Jan. 1749.

VIII. *A Letter from Father* Anthony Gaubil *Jeſuit, to Dr.* Mortimer, *Secr. R. S. containing ſome Account of the Knowlege of Geography among the* Chineſe, *and of Paper-Money current there. Tranſlated from the* French *by* T. S. M. D. *and F. R. S.*

Peking *Nov.* 9. 1748.

SIR,

Read Feb. 1. 1749. IT is now ſome time ſince I received from M. *de L'iſle* Part of a Map of the World, found among the Papers of the late Dr. *Kæmpfer*. In this Map were ſeveral *Chineſe*

Characters, ſome well, ſome ill written, which the late Profeſſor *Bayer* had attempted to decypher. —— In my Anſwer to Monſ. *de L'iſle*, I informed him that it was by no means a *Chineſe* Work *; that it could be of no Service to a learned *European*, ſuch as he or you were; and that Mr. *Bayer's* Explanations were full of Faults. I ſuppoſe that M. *de L'iſle* has already writ you my Thoughts concerning it from *Petersbourg*. You have poſſibly ſeen in ſeveral Books, what the *Chineſe* know, and have ſet down, concerning foreign Countries: And there is no Monument extant to prove, that before the arrival of the Jeſuits in this Country, they had Charts or Maps of the World, any way reſembling that, which you found among *Kæmpfer's* Writings.

It is now above ſixteen hundred Years ſince they tolerably well knew the Northern and Eaſtern Countries of *India*, and thoſe which lie between *China* and the *Caſpian* Sea. On theſe different Countries their Hiſtory affords ſeveral Informations, which are not to be found in the *Greek*, *Latin*, or other Hiſtorians. They had ſome, but very confuſed, Notions of the Regions beyond the *Caſpian* Sea; ſuch as *Syria*, *Greece*, *Egypt*, and ſome Parts of *Europe*. I do not ſpeak of the Times of *Gentchiſkan* and his Succeſſors; for then the *Chineſe* were made acquainted with *Ruſſia*, *Poland*, *Germany*,

* Doubtleſs it is the Work of an *European*, who was giving ſome Notion of Geography to a *Chineſe* or *Japaneſe*; or perhaps that of a *Chineſe* or *Japaneſe* from Memory of what he had heard from *Europeans*, or of the Map which he might have ſeen with them.

Hungary,

Hungary, Greece, &c. from Accounts given by their own Countrymen who followed that Prince, his Sons, and Grandſons: But the Monuments that remain of this their Knowlege are very confuſed. As to the Countries to the Eaſt of *China*, there are Proofs remaining in Books, that, above ſeventeen-hundred Year ago, the *Chineſe* were well acquainted with the Eaſtern Part of *Tartary* as far as the Sea, and the River *Ameur*, *Corea*, and *Japan*. Their Books ſpeak alſo in general, and without ſufficiently entering into Particulars, of many Countries to the Eaſt and to the North of *Japan*. With regard to the Monuments of the *Cap of Good Hope*, which have been mentioned by ſome, there are none in *China*; and if there have been any, they are now loſt. It was from the *Europeans*, that the *Chineſe* have learnt the Name and the Situation of the *Cape:* [and you will ſoon ſee a Diſſertation, wherein all this Affair will be circumſtantially treated].

I herewith ſend you two Paper Money-Bills; do me the Favour to accept them. Next Year we may poſſibly ſend ſomething to *Canton*, either for you, or for your illuſtrious Society.

I am, with great Reſpect,

SIR, Yours, &c.

A. GAUBIL.

An Account of the above-mentioned Bills.

TWO Paper Money-Bills of the Reign of *Hongvou.*

The Year of Chriſt 1368. was the Firſt of the Empire of *Hongvou*, Founder of the Dynaſty of *Ming*. During the Dynaſty of *Yuen* (who were *Mogul Tartars*) which *Hongvou* deſtroy'd, there was a great deal of Paper-Money. There had alſo been ſome, 140 Years before, under the Dynaſty of *Kin* (oriental *Tartars*) who reign'd in the Northern Provinces of *China*, and in *Tartary*. The *Yuens* deſtroy'd this Dynaſty, as well as that of the *Song's*, who were *Chineſe*, that reign'd in the Southern Provinces of *China*. We find no Paper Money of the Dynaſties of the *Yuen's* and *Kin's*; and that of *Hongvou* is ſcarce. The *Bonzes* and *Chineſe* Empirics ſuperſtitiouſly ſay, that this Paper-Money laid upon Children brings them good Luck.

Theſe two Bills are the ſame with thoſe, the Figures and Explanations of which are to be ſeen in Father *du Halde's Deſcription de la* Chine, Tom. II. pag. 168.

I ſend you the Two,* becauſe probably you have none of that Sort.

The late Father *Dentrecolles* formerly ſent to *France* an Account of the *Chineſe* Money, antient and modern: And ſome Notes and Remarks on this Sort of Money were of late Years ſent hence to *Peterſbourg*.

* One of which I preſented to the Royal Society. *C. M.*